C O O R G

A group of tenants met the members of the Committee at Circuit House, Mercara town on 31st night at about 8.15 p.m.

Syreadi Chappa

The owner of my land is repeatedly asking me to vacate the lands and I have not vacated it. I am a tenant for the last 18 years and I am cultivating 3 acres of land. This yields 20 to 30 batties and 14 batties are paid as rent to the landlord. I possess no bullocks, and I take them from the landlord for which I pay 8 batties. The cost of one pair of bullocks is Rs.120/- approximately.

Shri Balappa

In our village the system of fixed rent prevails. I cultivate 4½ acres of land personally and I get 70 batties from the land. I have been doing this for the past 3 years. I own no land. At other times I work as labourer. I also have a debt of Rs.200/- and pay interest of Rs.12%.

Smt.Somakka

For the last 8 years, I am cultivating 3 acres of land. The owner is a peon and is away from here. The owners' brother gives me lo of trouble and is pressing me to vacate the land. He does not supply manure or seeds; on the other hand I pay him 15 batties. The yield I get is about 50 batties. I cultivate the land with the help of some coolies and I have no house, and I have a debt also.

M/s Sivanna and Subbaiah

We are cultivating 12 acres of land jointly and we have 3 pairs of bullocks. I pay 55 batties as rent for a year. But 2 years ago I was paying only 50 batties. I get an yield of 130 batties. Assessment is paid by the landlord. Bullocks if bought from maidas areas remain useful for 2 seasons. But the cattle born here live longer than the imported ones. One bullock costs Rs.100.

Mr.Madaiah Kategere

I cultivate 7½ acres of land. I possess one pair of bullocks. I pay a fixed rent of 50 batties to the landlord and as hire charges for the other two bullocks I pay 30 batties. I get 70 batties of yield. We have five members in our family and I have no desire to purchase the land since I have a debt of Rs.75/-. So far no tenant in our village has purchased lands.

Shri Balappa

The landlord is repeatedly asking me to pay more rent and also insisting upon treating me as a labourer on wages; he aske me to vacate the land otherwise. The landlord never executes the lease-bond and he instructs me that I should answer to any one enquiring that I am working as labourer on his fields. I get 75 batties of which I pay 33 batties.